

# Ahead of anniversary, Xi emphasises red roots

President and other top leaders pay their respects to Mao Zedong; Xi says, ‘Only the Communist Party can lead China’

**ATUL ANEJA**  
BEIJING

On the eve of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) says it is a responsible global power, but will not deviate from its unique socialist model.

On Monday morning, Chinese President Xi Jinping, along with the top ranking leaders of the seven-member Standing Committee of the Politburo, paid their respects to Mao Zedong, the founding father of the PRC.

“Chinese President Xi Jinping with other senior Chinese leaders joined representatives from all walks of life in presenting flower baskets to deceased national heroes in Beijing on Monday, marking the country’s sixth Martyrs’ Day on the eve of National Day,” state broadcaster China Global Television Network (CGTN) reported.

Ahead of the national day celebrations, *People’s Daily*, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of China (CPC),



**Grand welcome:** Xi Jinping at a dinner on the eve of China’s National Day in Beijing. •AP

also focused on the importance of China’s red-roots, for ushering the PRC into a “new era” on Mr. Xi’s watch.

### Central role

The daily reported that during a visit to an exhibition on September 23, commemorating seven decades of achievements by the PRC, Mr. Xi stressed that the CPC’s role was central to China’s progress.

“Xi said the historic

achievements China has made in the past seven decades and the historic changes it has undergone fully demonstrate that only the CPC can lead China; only with socialism can we save China; only with reform and opening up can we develop China, develop socialism and develop Marxism; and only with the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics can we lead China toward prosperity and strength,” the

daily reported.

During an elaborate military parade, which will be highlighted on Tuesday during national day celebrations, the Chinese wish to convey two messages – that Beijing is a responsible global stakeholder, but whose military power gap with the U.S. was rapidly reducing.

The march of Chinese peacekeepers on UN assignments would be spotlighted during the parade. “Chinese

peacekeepers will march for the first time in the military parade celebrating New China’s 70th birthday on Tuesday, signifying the country’s strong capability and commitment to maintaining global peace and prosperity,” says state-run *China Daily* newspaper.

The daily, citing official data, said China has sent about 40,000 personnel to participate in 24 UN peacekeeping missions around the globe.

Currently, there are around 2,500 Chinese blue helmets in seven of the 14 ongoing UN peacekeeping operations, making China the largest contributor of peacekeepers among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

In a clear message to the U.S. and Taiwan, the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) will showcase the road-mobile DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missile, capable of targeting any part of the globe with its multiple warheads.

## China doubled troop levels in Hong Kong

**REUTERS**  
HONG KONG

China has quietly more than doubled its deployment of mainland security forces in Hong Kong, according to foreign envoys and security analysts.

Last month, Beijing moved thousands of troops into Hong Kong, the centre of protests since June.

A month on, seven Asian and Western envoys have told Reuters they are certain the late-August deployment was not a rotation, but a reinforcement. Three of the envoys said the number of Chinese military personnel in Hong Kong had more than doubled since June. They put the number at 3,000 to 5,000 before the reinforcement, and estimated it is now between 10,000 to 12,000.

# Austria’s Kurz faces tricky choices to form next govt.

Former Chancellor will explore the possibility of a coalition

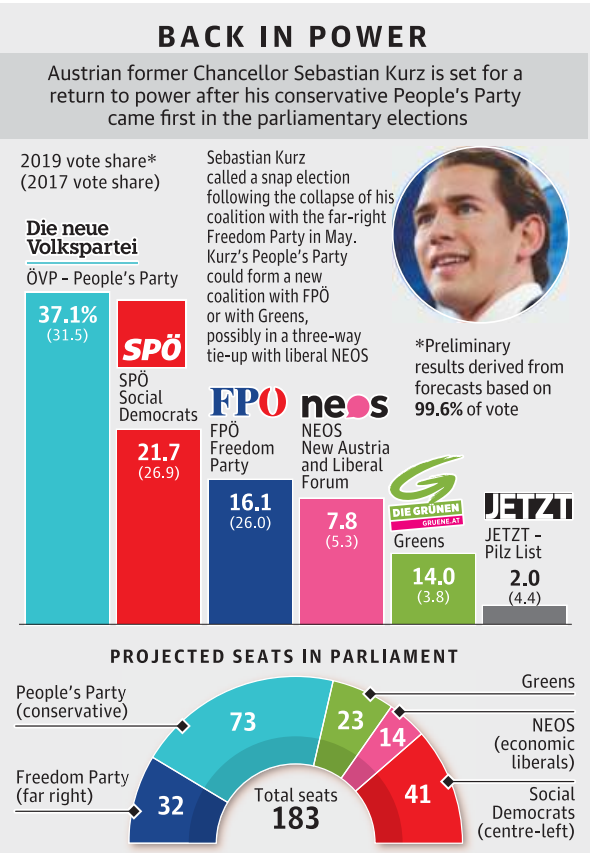
**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
VIENNA

A day after winning Austria’s early election, former Chancellor Sebastian Kurz refused on Monday to rule out any options for forming a new government, including courting the far-right Freedom Party that suffered heavy losses following corruption allegations.

Mr. Kurz’s conservative People’s Party finished first with 37.1% of the vote on Sunday and he said he planned to honour his pledge to talk to all rivals on the possibility of a coalition. “We will seek talks with all parties and try to determine which parties there’s overlap with, which parties a stable government can be formed with,” he told public broadcaster ORF.

The 33-year-old also bristled at calls from German commentators for his party to shun a fresh coalition with far-right partners. “I don’t think we need advice from abroad, including from Germany,” he said.

A video showing former Freedom Party leader Heinz-Christian Strache offering favours to a purported Russian investor triggered the collapse of Mr. Kurz’s 17-month government with them in May. Mr. Strache also faces an investigation for suspected breach of trust over the alleged billing of private expenses to his party, which contributed to its



Sources: AP, Austrian Interior Ministry, LSE, Reuters Picture: AP © GRAPHIC NEWS

weak third-place finish Sunday with 16% of the vote.

### Two options

The Freedom Party has indicated it plans to move into opposition to rebuild itself, leaving Mr. Kurz with only two realistic options – joining with the second-placed Social Democrats, whose share of the vote fell to 21.7%, or the environmental-

ist Greens, who staged a big comeback after failing to enter Parliament in 2017 and received 14% support on Sunday.

“I fear (coalition talks) will be a little bit more challenging this time,” said Mr. Kurz.

Mr. Kurz said safeguarding the economy would be the main task for the coming years.

# Both Ghani, Abdullah claim lead in Afghanistan election

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
KABUL

Afghanistan chief executive Abdullah Abdullah claimed victory on Monday over incumbent Ashraf Ghani in the weekend’s presidential election, far ahead of the release of any official results.

The move is likely to stir political tensions across Afghanistan and brings to mind the election Mr. Abdullah and his top rival Mr. Ghani bitterly contested in 2014 that sparked a constitutional crisis and prompted U.S. in-



Abdullah Abdullah

tervention. “We have the most votes in this election,” Mr. Abdullah said at a news conference, without provid-

ing any evidence in support.

“The results will be announced by the IEC (Independent Election Commission), but we have the most votes. The election is not going to go to a second round.”

Mr. Abdullah’s announcement came after one of Mr. Ghani’s running mate, Amrullah Saleh, on Sunday claimed to have garnered the lion’s share of votes. “According to our information, 60 to 70% of the people have voted for our team,” Mr. Saleh said.

## U.K.’s Johnson denies charges of groping

**REUTERS**  
LONDON

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has denied allegations that he groped two women 20 years ago.

Charlotte Edwardes, a columnist, wrote in *The Sunday Times* that Mr. Johnson had groped her at a lunch in 1999 when he was editor of *The Spectator*. Ms. Edwardes said that after the meal, she had confided in another woman who had sat on the other side of Mr. Johnson. The other woman said Mr. Johnson had also groped her, Ms. Edwardes added.

The Prime Minister’s spokesman told reporters: “This allegation is untrue.”

# Trump suggests Adam Schiff should be arrested for ‘treason’

His call to Zelensky was part of whistleblower’s complaint

**REUTERS**  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday escalated his attacks against the lawmaker leading the impeachment inquiry against him, suggesting that Representative Adam Schiff be arrested for “treason.”

The comment is likely to inflame criticism of Mr. Trump’s handling of the scandal engulfing his presidency, stemming from a telephone call in which Mr. Trump asked Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden and his son. The telephone call was in-



Adam Schiff

cluded in an intelligence officer’s whistleblower complaint that raised concerns about whether the President sought to leverage U.S. aid to Ukraine for a political favour.

# Gotabaya faces court test over nationality

‘Dual citizenship’ status is being probed

**MEERA SRINIVASAN**  
COLOMBO

Presidential hopeful Gotabaya Rajapaksa will face a court test this week over his Sri Lankan citizenship – on which his candidacy depends – following a petition challenging its legality.

On Monday, Sri Lanka’s Court of Appeal set up a three-judge panel to hear the case on October 2 and 3. October 7 is the last day for presidential aspirants to file nominations.

War-time Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, had been a “dual citizen” of Sri Lanka and the U.S., until he reportedly renounced the latter some months ago, ahead of his presidential bid. Sri Lankan law bars those holding citizenship abroad from contesting for presidency. Early August, the local business newspaper *Daily FT* published a report pointing to questions over the validity of Mr. Gotabaya’s Sri Lankan citizenship documentation.

Subsequently, activists Gamini Vijayagoda and Chandraguptha Thenuwara complained to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), seeking an investigation into the matter. Probing the complaint, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) recently informed the Colombo Chief Magistrate’s Court that Immigration and Defence Ministry authorities claimed they do not have records substantiating Mr. Gotabaya’s dual citizenship, weekend newspaper *Sunday Times* reported.

Well-known civil society members in Colombo, Mr. Vijayagoda and Mr. Thenuwara were involved in the campaign for democracy and good governance that,



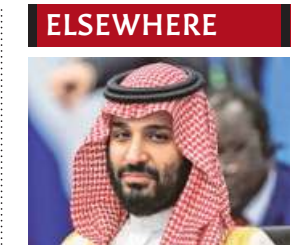
Gotabaya Rajapaksa

in the 2015 presidential election, dislodged ex-President Mahinda Rajapaksa, propelling the President Maithripala Sirisena-Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe combine to power. Over a month after their complaint to the IGP, and amid conflicting reports about likely progress in the high-profile case, the civil rights activists petitioned the Court of Appeal on the same matter last week, arguing that Mr. Gotabaya’s passport and National Identity Card had been issued “unlawfully.”

### Presidential contest

Commenting on the development, Keheliya Rambukwella, a spokesman for Mr. Gotabaya, said their side was certain of winning the case. “This only goes to show that [ruling party] are really threatened by his candidacy, his reach and popularity. It is hilarious,” he told *The Hindu*.

Sri Lanka will go to polls on November 16, and Mr. Gotabaya, representing the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), is among the main candidates in the fray, along with the ruling United National Party’s Sajith Premadasa, the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna’s Anura Kumara Dissanayake and former Army commander Mahesh Senanayake, fielded by a broad civil society coalition.



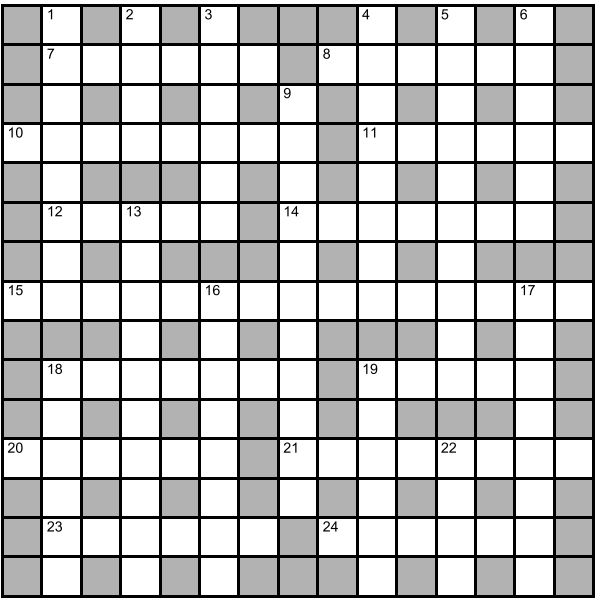
## Didn’t order Khashoggi murder: Saudi Prince

**NEW YORK**  
Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in a television interview that he takes “full responsibility” for the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but denied allegations that he ordered it. AP

### Yemen’s Houthi rebels free 290 prisoners: ICRC

**SANAA**  
Yemen’s Houthi rebels have freed 290 prisoners, including dozens of survivors from a Saudi-led strike on a detention centre earlier this month, the International Committee of the Red Cross said on Monday. AFP

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12744



### ACROSS

- 7 Signifying all points here are points of no return? (3-3)
- 8 Let us fancy Holmes primarily is Sherlock (6)
- 10 Change agent’s say well begun work right during upswing (3,5)
- 11 Produces vessel to drink hock (6)

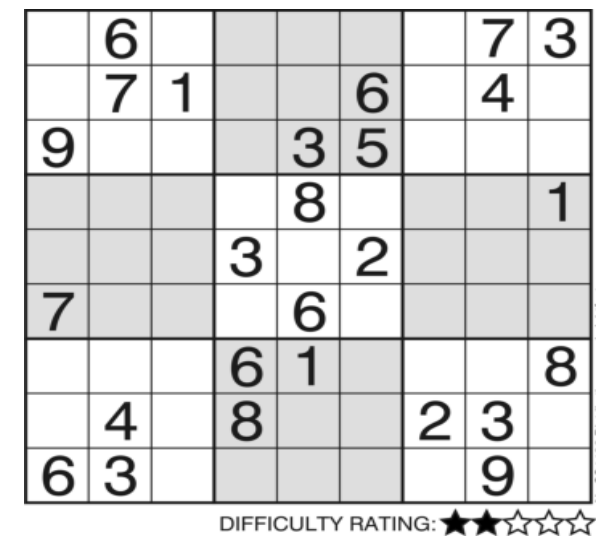
### DOWN

- 1 What it may be for introvert to mature, getting an element of assurance (8)
- 2 Angelica possibly, or some other babe (4)

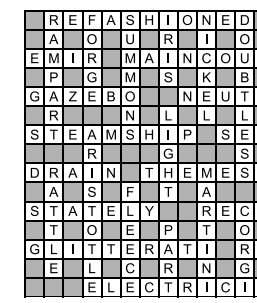
(set by xChequer)

- 3 Smack one forsaking white knight (6)
- 4 Line, by use, so reproduced in reaction to sneeze (5,3)
- 5 Item in tea service beginning to grill, so turn gas off (5,5)
- 6 Referring to source as gutless creature (6)
- 9 Selfsame icy forms in some emoticons (6,5)
- 13 Thermos said to be outstanding, having far-flung, large demand (5,5)
- 16 Coach and train English to crack some centuries, say (8)
- 17 Award winning, extremely impressive victory of ancient times (8)
- 18 Stories of fires regularly spread by wind (6)
- 19 Enemies of enemy firing the last shot (6)
- 22 Twig basket? (4)

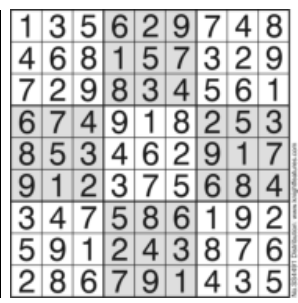
## SUDOKU



### Solution to puzzle 12743



### Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku



## FAITH

# Overcome desire

From time immemorial, problems in myriad forms have been very much a part of human life. The cause of human misery is traced to the individual’s failure to curb desires in the bud even as these arise in one’s heart and mind. Then, the tendency to do wrong and commit sins becomes dominant. Moreover, deluded by Maya, people forget the Supreme Lord who is the source of all creation and get immersed in their own selves, says Krishna in the Gita, pointed out Swami Omkarananda in a discourse.

In Hiranyakasipu’s reign the name Narayana is taboo. Hiranyakasipu is driven by self love that makes him think that he is the highest power and authority. He orders that all should worship him alone as the supreme person and even punishes those who propitiate Narayana as the Lord. His own son Prahlada is subjected to untold torture and miseries because the child is firm in his faith and belief in Hari. This is how one loses track of the purpose of life and of one’s duty towards self and society.

In the 16th chapter, a spiritual aspirant gets an exposure to both good and evil inherent in human nature when the Daivi, the divine and the Aasuri, the evil, Sampath with which each one is endowed with is explained in detail. Rigorous and honest self examination of one’s nature and tendencies against the backdrop of these good and bad qualities is absolutely necessary. For then if one realises the lack of good qualities, he should cultivate them consciously; if he has evil tendencies in him, he should try to free himself of these. When one is always aware of the atma tatva jnana and of the dichotomy between the perishable body and the immortal atma, one can try to sustain good qualities and transcend the tendencies towards evil and wrong doing.